

ACCESS TO CARE PROBLEMS IN
THE MEDICARE PROGRAM**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this year, physicians and other skilled health care professionals absorbed a 5.4 percent cut in Medicare reimbursements. The cut went into effect in January, and the signs of access problems are already showing.

Since rural physicians already receive less reimbursement for services provided to Medicare patients than urban physicians, this is a critical issue.

Medicare patients in this Member's Congressional District are finding it increasingly difficult to find a physician. Some physicians will not accept patients who are 60 years old, because they are nearing Medicare-eligibility age.

Lincoln, the second largest city in Nebraska, has a population of 225,581. We have 27 internists. According to estimates, only five to seven of these internists are accepting new Medicare patients. Where are new Medicare patients supposed to go to obtain the health care services they need when these internists cannot accept any more Medicare patients? Will these Medicare patients end up in hospital emergency rooms to obtain necessary health care services? Will they go untreated?

The House passed corrective legislation already on June 28, 2002. The Senate has not acted. We cannot throw our hands up in the air, and give up. We cannot leave our senior citizens behind. We must protect our senior citizens and preserve access to physician services.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GERMAN-AMERICAN
FULBRIGHT EDUCATIONAL
EXCHANGE PROGRAM**HON. JOHN BOOZMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make note of the 50th Anniversary of the German-American Fulbright Educational Exchange Program.

Our former colleague, Senator J. William Fulbright, was a champion of education and cultural exchange. In 1946, Senator Fulbright passed legislation creating the Fulbright Program, an international educational exchange program.

Prior to that, the German-American Fulbright Program was created based on an agreement signed in 1952 by the US High Commissioner, John J. McCloy, and the German Chancellor, Konrad Adenauer. The German-American Fulbright Program is an educational exchange organization funded by both the German and American governments that seeks to promote academic excellence and cultural understanding between the United States and Germany through scholarly exchanges.

Since its inception, the German-American Fulbright Program has played a leading role being both the largest and most varied Ful-

bright program in the world. The year 2002 marks the 50th Anniversary of the creation of the bilateral German-American program.

I am proud that this program of peace and education stemmed from the work of Senator Fulbright, a fellow Arkansan. It has fostered not only educational exchange but symbolizes the strength of the alliance between our nations.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Fulbright best described this excellent program when he said, "The Fulbright Program aims to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason, and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby to increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship."

I yield back the balance of my time.

IN HONOR OF ORCHARD SCHOOL
OF SCIENCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Today, I rise to honor the Orchard School of Science Elementary School in Cleveland, Ohio for affording me the opportunity to visit with young students during my Third Annual Back-to-School Tour on Monday, September 23rd and Monday, September 30th of 2002. I would like to offer special thanks to Cleveland School Municipal District CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett, Superintendent Debra Brathwaite and Principal Mary Ann Knapp for their leadership and kind hospitality. The tour was an educational experience for all who were in attendance.

Orchard School of Science Elementary School has set forth major academic goals for the year, which include fostering improvement of the safe school environment; improving the passage rate on the reading/writing, science, mathematics and citizenship portions of the Fourth Grade Proficiency Test and/or the Off-Grade Proficiency Test by 6.5 percent. Recent accomplishments from last year include all grades making improvement gains on the reading portion of the Proficiency Test and the Off-Grade Proficiency Tests; a \$12,000 teaching grant to take fifth grade students camping; and students being able to attend the Space Camp in Orlando, Florida.

I commend the Orchard School of Science Elementary School for its commitment to education and will continue to fight for increased funding to improve the quality of public education for all students.

HONORING MARY CIANCIO AND
THE ADAMS COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH CENTER**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Adams Community Mental Health Center for their outstanding service and to honor one of their earliest and staunchest supporters, Mary Ciano.

Adams Community Mental Health Center is one of the most respected mental health serv-

ice providers in the Denver-metro area. ACMHC has been providing high quality care to low income families and individuals in Adams County since 1957. They have given the gift of hope to over 115,000 members of the community. ACMHC provides counseling to people who are having a difficult time dealing with life stress. They give people the tools they need to stop hurting themselves, their families and their communities. Countless people in the community owe a huge debt of thanks to ACMHC for helping loved ones and healing families. They provide an invaluable service to the community because helping people to lead mentally healthy lives uplifts the entire community.

One person who believed this implicitly was Mary Ciano. Mary Ciano is one of the most respected citizens in Adams County history. Growing up, Mrs. Ciano had to overcome many trials and tribulations. She overcame painful family tragedies. With dignity, she fought racism as she worked tirelessly and in her always-gentle way, to overcome prejudice against Catholics, against Italian-Americans, against people with disabilities and on behalf of community service. There is little doubt that these experiences helped shape her into the strong, compassionate altruist that she became. She helped the March of Dimes, the American Cancer Society and the Colorado Easter Seals, in addition to many other organizations.

She had a special interest in helping people with mental illness. One of her top priorities was the Adams Community Mental Health Center. She was one of the Center's earliest supporters and sat on the Board of Directors for a number of years. The largest annual fund-raiser for the Center is the Mary Ciano Memorial Golf & Tennis Tournament, the Tournament raises over \$100,000 annually and was organized by her son, Don Ciano, in 1981. ACMHC has honored her importance to the Center by naming its administrative building the Mary Ciano Memorial Building.

The support of Mary Ciano was instrumental in helping to establish the Adams Community Mental Health Center. The Center has been of paramount importance to its community. The care that they have provided has given individuals hope and uplifted the community in the process. I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking ACMHC for their good work and honoring the life of Mary Ciano. Our community is better because of them.

RECOGNIZING SENATOR FRANK
MADLA'S 30 YEARS OF SERVICE**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great humility to honor a friend and colleague, Texas Senator Frank Madla, as he marks 30 years of dedicated service to our community as a state legislator. I had the privilege to serve with him in the Texas House of Representatives and then work with him when he moved on to the Texas Senate. Even today, Senator Madla and I continue to work together to improve the lives of our mutual constituents.

I remember when Frank Madla first won his seat in the Texas House. I had only recently